Import of cloves

811. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that import of cloves has been decentralised under the new Import-Export Policy; if so, what are the reasons for doing so and whether this item was earlier removed from OGL and its import canalised through STC; if so, since when;

(b) whether the present and earlier decisions by the Ministry to change the policy were made in public interest; if so, which one of the two has served the purpose;

(c) what was the market price of cloves before and after canalisation and what is the price now and the quantity imported and distributed by STC;

(d) what is the annual domestic requirement of cloves and how it was met; and

(e) whether the decision to decanalise the item was leaked out as reported in 'Vyapar' of Bombay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Cloves had been under Open General Licence for a long time. Its import was canalised through S.T.C. on 26th September, 1986, as it was thought that canalisation would not only provide protection to the indigenous growers but also enable imports at the most economical prices through bulk purchases from the State Trading agencies in the supplying countries. However, there were problems in imports and distribution with consequential rise in prices. As the canalisation arrangement did not prove to be satisfactory, the Government decided to bring *status-quo ants.*

(c) The wholesale prices of cloves were between Rs. 13,000 to Rs. 15,000 per quintal before canalisation and the price rose upto Rs. 23,000 to Rs. 24,000 per quintal during the period of canalisation. Imports made by STC during the period of canalisation amounted to 1293 MT out of which 725 MT were to arrive in April, 1988.

(d) The annual domestic requirement of cloves is around 3,000 MT which is met partly by the indigenous production and balance through imports.

(e) No, Sir.

Court cases filed by Banks for recovery of dues

812. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of court cases that have been filed by the nationalised banks to recover dues from borrowers and what is the total amount involved until December, 1986;

(b) what is the amount written off as bad debts so far;

(c) whether Government or Reserve Bank of India thought of any regular arrangement or machinery for collection of information or for recovery of debts and whether the same is periodically published; and

(d) whether in view of this Government contemplate the desirability of special legislation to speed up recovery of dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House to the extent possible.